

MBIPC

MICHIGAN BRAIN INJURY
PROVIDERS COUNCIL

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House Judiciary Committee Testimony March 25, 2009

Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Lynn Brouwers. I work for Rainbow Rehabilitation and I am representing the Michigan Brain Injury Providers Council. We are acute care hospital providers, residential rehabilitation providers, home care and outpatient providers. We are here in support of this bill to bring the definition of disability back to the definition used before the Kreiner court decision.

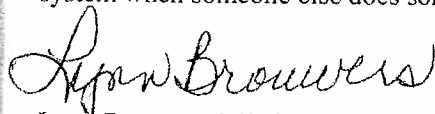
I and many of my fellow health care members are treatment providers to people with multiple trauma. Physicians prescribe our services when someone has a resulting disability or health care need that is either temporary or long term in nature.

We are so fortunate that patients in car crashes and their employers are not saddled medical bills. Innocent people have access to necessary care for as long as they need it. That does not however, mitigate all the HARMS experienced by innocent people in crashes everyday. Innocent injured people have burdens to carry after an accident.

Burdens include

- Prolonged physical pain because of broken bones and nerve injuries
- Interruptions in school or work history because of mandated medical treatment
- Damaged organs or loss of organs
- Disfigurement and scars
- Terrible memories of the crash, sometimes involving injuries or the death of family members or friends.
- Fatigue that limits a person's ability to fully participate in daily life
- Arthritis or seizure or psychiatric problems that develop after the acute phase of recovery
- Relationships damaged because of the interruption in intimate relationships like marriages or in parenting relationships.
- Financial shortfalls in wage loss benefits

I have over 25 years of professional experience at Spectrum Health and Mary Free Bed Rehab Hospital and volunteer experience with the Brain Injury Association. I have interacted with a lot of injured people and getting hurt HURTS. People want to be made whole through the legal system when someone else does something wrong.



Lynn Brouwers MS CRC CBIST
Michigan Brain Injury Providers Council